

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 18-21, 23-25, 33-41, 48, 50 and 51 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 102(e) Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 18-21 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Alexander James Hendriks (U.S. Publication 2002/0087621) (hereinafter "Hendriks"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons below.

A declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 is submitted herewith. The declaration indicates that Applicant's date of invention is prior to December 29, 2000. Therefore, Hendriks (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0087621) is removed as a prior art reference since its prior art date is December 29, 2000. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request removal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 1-6, 18-21 and 48.

Section 103(a) Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 9, 23-25, 50 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendriks in view of De Greef et al. (U.S. Patent 6,549,217) (hereinafter "De Greef"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons below.

As noted above, Hendriks is not prior art in light of Applicant's declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 8, 9, 23-25, 50 and 51.

CONCLUSION

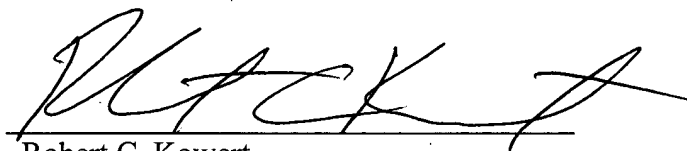
Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such an extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-78600/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☒ Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 with Exhibits A-C

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 20, 2006